Friday 31 May 2024 Saturday 1 June 2024

Room F-113

Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern Institut for the Science of Religion University of Bern

Anmeldung per E-Mail an: sekretariat.relwi@unibe.ch



ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY OF EXTREME FASTING IN EASTERN AND WESTERN TRADITIONS









Conference program



Friday 31 May 2024

8:30 **Opening:** Welcome Address by Claire Maes and Jens Schlieter

Extreme Fasting in Religious and Ascetic Contexts

9:00 – 10:00 **Bernadett Bigalke** (University of Leipzig, Germany) The Celebration and Contestation of Extreme Food Abstinence as a Form of Piety among Western Catholic Women in Early Modern and Modern Times

10:00 – 11:00 **Stefan Rindlisbacher** (University of Vienna, Austria) Fasting in Life Reform Movements (1850-1950)

11:00 – 12:00 **Kanae Kawamoto** (Tokyo University, Japan) The Changing Place of Extreme Fasting in Naikan: Revaluing Buddhist Ascetic Practice for Psychotherapeutic Benefits.

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 14:00 **Monika Schrimpf** (University of Tübingen, Germany) Extreme Asceticism: Fasting, Self-Mumification, and Marathon Monks in Japan

14:00 – 15:00 **Yutaka Kawasaki** (Tokyo University, Japan) Philosophy and Ethics of the Jain Fast unto Death (sallekhanā)

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break

Hunger Strikes and the Philosophy of Non-Violent Resistance

15:30 – 16:30 **Nayan Shah** (University of Southern California, U.S.A.) African American Civil Rights Hunger Strikes and the Quandaries of Mental Health and Fitness

16:30 – 17:30 **Ian Miller** (Ulster University, Ireland) The Hunger Strikes of Suffragettes: The Ethical Dilemma of Force Feeding

17:30 - 18:00 Discussion



Saturday, 1 June 2024

Hunger Strikes and the Philosophy of Non-Violent Resistance (Continued)

10:00 – 11:00 **Vinay Lal** (University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A.) The Body in the Body Politic: Gandhi and the Art and Politics of Fasting

11:00 – 12:00 **Valeriya Gazizova** (Heidelberg University, GSRL, Paris) Underground Fasting Practices among Mongols in Soviet Kalmykia: Towards an Analysis of the Ethics of Resistance

12:00 - 13:00 Lunch Break

Systematic Comparison and Transcultural Philosophical Evaluation

13:00 – 14:00 **Claire Maes** (University of Tübingen, Germany) The Jain Fast unto Death and Voluntarily Stopping of Eating and Drinking: A Systematic Comparison

14:00 – 15:00 **Brianne Donaldson** (University of California, Irvinem U.S.A.) Ethical Relativism versus Global Bioethics: or how Jainism can Contribute to End-of-life Debates

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:30 Jens Schlieter

(University of Bern, Switzerland) The Ethics of Fasting to Death in Religion, Terminal Care, and Politics: Individual Decision-Making and its Effects on Communities

17:00 – 18:00 **Roundtable Discussion** Extreme Fasting Practices Compared